

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SCI-06 L-03 DRC-01 /149 W
----- 074543

R 291725Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2834

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC, ETRD

SUBJECT: FRG/CZECH NEGOTIATIONS OVER ESTABLISHMENT
OF A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION

REF: A. PRAGUE 1151; B. BONN 7824

1. SUMMARY. FRG NEGOTIATORS FOUND THE CZECHS
"CONCILIATORY" DURING RECENT NEGOTIATIONS OVER A
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE
FRG EXPECTS NO MOVEMENT ON THE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE
END OF THE YEAR, AFTER THE EC COMMISSION PUBLISHES
ITS COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT REGULATIONS.
FRG INSISTS ON TWO AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AN FRG FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT
ALTHOUGH THE TWO SIDES DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT DUE
TO THE FRG REFUSAL TO LIFT IMPORT QUOTAS ON GOODS
PRODUCED AS A RESULT OF THE AGREEMENT (SEE PARA 2 OF
REFTEL A), THE MOOD SURROUNDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS
MUCH BETTER THAN DURING PREVIOUS SESSIONS. OUR SOURCE
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CITED TWO EXAMPLES. FIRST, WHEN SIGRIST THE HEAD OF

THE FRG DELEGATION NOTED THAT THE FRG'S OSTPOLITIK HAS TO BE CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO THE FRG'S COMMITMENT TO NATO AND THE EC, PETER OF THE CZECH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY DID NOT REACT. SIMILAR COMMENTS DURING PREVIOUS NEGOTIATING SESSIONS HAD EVOKED A STRONG CZECH REACTION. SECOND, AFTER THE FRG TOLD THE CZECHS IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO THE CLAUSE ON LIFTING OF THE QUOTAS DUE TO THE FRG'S EC COMMITMENT, PETER STATED THAT HE HOPED MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE DIFFICULTY. FOR THESE REASONS OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE FRG DELEGATION THOUGHT THE CZECHS WERE TRYING TO BE "CONCILIATORY".

3. ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS DRAFTED, TRANSLATED AND READY FOR INITIALLING, THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE THINKS THE CZECHS MAY NOW WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR BEFORE CONTINUING THE DISCUSSIONS. THE OFFICIAL EXPECTS THE CZECHS TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT REGULATIONS THE EC COMMISSION PUBLISHES ON COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS BEFORE PURSUING THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG.

4. OUR RESEARCH MINISTRY CONTACTS ARE EMPHATIC ABOUT THE NECESSITY FOR TWO AGREEMENTS; ONE COVERING COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS AND THE OTHER COVERING COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC FIELDS. THE FRG SEES THE CZECH DESIRE TO FOLD SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION INTO THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT AS AN ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE COMMERCIALLY VALUABLE INFORMATION UNDER THE GUISE OF "SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION" (PARA 1 OF REFTEL A).
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN08502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-0493
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740512/aaaaajzw.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PRAGUE 1151; B. BONN 7824
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG/CZECH NEGOTIATIONS OVER ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION
TAGS: ETRD, CZ, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005